

- 6 -

Application No. 10/670,236
Docket No.: 740116-493**REMARKS**

By the above actions, the subject matter of claim 25 has been added into claim 1 and therefore claim 25 has been canceled and accordingly the dependency of claims 26, 27, & 29 have been changed to from claim 25 to claim 1. Additionally, claim 4 has also been amended, and a replacement Fig. 1 is appended hereto and in which a "Prior Art" legend has been added to address the Examiner's objection to the drawings. In view of these actions and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is now requested.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 25-27 and 30 has been noted with appreciation. In view thereof, as noted above, claim 25 has been placed in independent form by way of amending of claim 1 to incorporate it. Thus, claim 1 is in condition for allowance, along with all of the dependent claims which all depend from claim 1, thereby rendering moot all of the outstanding prior art rejections which should now be withdrawn.

As for the rejection of claims 4 & 20 for indefiniteness under 35 USC § 112, the following is noted. With regard to claim 4 and the purported lack of antecedent basis for "the" joints, while claim 3 is considered to provide antecedent basis for this term of claim 4, claim 4 has been amended to make this fact clearer. On the other hand, claim 20 is not considered to require revision since literal antecedent basis for "the" shock absorption layer can be found in claim 17, from which claim 20 depends via claim 19. On the basis of the foregoing, withdrawal of the § 112 rejection is in order and is now requested.

While this application should now be in condition for allowance, in the event that any issues should remain after consideration of this response which could be addressed through discussions with the undersigned, then the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

By: David S. Safran
Registration No. 27,997Roberts Mlotkowski & Hobbes P.C
PO Box 10064
McLean, VA 22102
Direct Telephone: (703) 584-3273

DSS:kmm